

A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF HOUSE GOP & DEMOCRATIC WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS

	HOUSE GOP WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS	HOUSE DEM. WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS
Is there a guarantee for laid-off workers of federally-funded enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system, including additional weeks of benefits for those who have exhausted their regular benefits?	NO. There is <u>no</u> guarantee of any federally-funded enhancements. Indeed, the provisions break with historical precedent by <u>not</u> guaranteeing additional weeks of benefits in all states during a downturn. Additional weeks of benefits would be provided only in states that elected to provide these benefits and finance them entirely from state unemployment accounts – something few states are likely to do.	YES. The provisions provide over the next 12 months the following enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system: 1) providing up to an additional 26 weeks of benefits to those exhausting their rights to regular benefits; 2) providing coverage to certain unemployed workers not currently covered by the system; and 3) increasing all unemployment benefits by the greater of 25% or \$65 per week.
How much new federal funding is provided for expanded unemployment benefits for laid-off workers?	NONE. Provisions simply <u>speed up</u> transfer of \$9.2 billion already slated to be shifted from federal unemployment insurance trust funds to state unemployment accounts. States would not be required to use these funds to pay unemployment benefits. <u>CBO estimates that only \$2.3 billion of this would be spent on increased UI benefits in FY 2002.</u>	\$30 Billion. Provides an additional \$30 billion in federal funding in FY 2002 to make the three enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system described above.
Are there meaningful provisions for providing health insurance coverage for laid-off workers?	NO. Simply provides an increase of \$3 billion in funding for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) that states may use to provide health insurance for unemployed workers and their families -- only helping a small fraction.	YES. Subsidizes 75 percent of COBRA premium costs for a period of 12 months for laid-off workers qualifying for COBRA and creates a temporary state Medicaid option to cover low-income laid-off workers and those ineligible for COBRA.
How much new federal funding is provided for health insurance coverage for laid-off workers?	\$3 Billion. The \$3 billion in SSBG funds is completely inadequate -- providing <u>less than one-eighth</u> as much as the Democratic alternative for health insurance for laid-off workers.	\$25 Billion. Provides an additional \$25 billion in federal funding in FY 2002 to provide health insurance coverage for laid-off workers as described above.

A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF BUSH & DEMOCRATIC WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS

	BUSH WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS	HOUSE DEM. WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS
Is there a guarantee for laid-off workers of federally-funded enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system, including additional weeks of benefits for those who have exhausted their regular benefits?	MINIMAL. The Bush provisions only provide additional weeks of federal benefits in a very limited number of states (estimated to be 10 to 20). This breaks with historical precedent by not guaranteeing additional weeks of federal benefits in <u>all</u> states during a downturn. Furthermore, Bush <u>fails</u> to include provisions to extend coverage to unemployed workers not covered by current system and increase the inadequate level of current benefits.	YES. The provisions provide over the next 12 months the following enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system: 1) providing up to an additional 26 weeks of benefits to those exhausting their rights to regular benefits; 2) providing coverage to certain unemployed workers not currently covered by the system; and 3) increasing all unemployment benefits by the greater of 25% or \$65 per week.
How much new federal funding is provided for expanded unemployment benefits for laid-off workers?	\$5 Billion. The Labor Department estimates that the Bush provisions would result in only \$5 billion in additional unemployment benefits. This compares with the \$30 billion in the Democratic proposal and the \$35 billion in the last recession.	\$30 Billion. Provides an additional \$30 billion in federal funding in FY 2002 to make the three enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system described above.
Are there meaningful provisions for providing health insurance coverage for laid-off workers?	NO. The provisions would simply provide \$3 billion for National Emergency Grants that could be used for health insurance, income supplements or job training. The Bush provisions making \$11 billion in “unspent” SCHIP funds available are <u>meaningless</u> because these funds are already committed for children’s health care needs.	YES. Subsidizes 75 percent of COBRA premium costs for a period of 12 months for laid-off workers qualifying for COBRA and creates a temporary state Medicaid option to cover low-income laid-off workers and those ineligible for COBRA.
How much new federal funding is provided for health insurance for unemployed workers?	\$3 Billion. The \$3 billion in National Emergency Grants is completely inadequate – providing <u>less than one-eighth</u> as much as the Democratic alternative for health insurance for laid-off workers.	\$25 Billion. Provides an additional \$25 billion in federal funding in FY 2002 to provide health insurance coverage for laid-off workers as described above.